

In the Claims:

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Please cancel claims 77-86 without prejudice as directed to a non-elected invention.

Please amend claim 87 as follows.

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- 87. (amended) A method for producing an antibody or fragment thereof directed against a B7 antigen having SEQ ID NO. 8 or a fragment of SEQ ID NO. 8, which antibody reacts with B7 on B7 positive B cells to inhibit B cell interaction with CD28, comprising:
- C20 (a) using the B7 antigen or a fragment thereof so as to produce antibodies that react with B7 antigen or a fragment thereof; and
- (b) screening the antibodies so prepared for an antibody that reacts with the B7 or fragment thereof on B7 positive B cells and inhibits B cell interaction with CD28.--
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Please add new claims 89-93 as follows:

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- 89. (new) The method of claim 87, wherein the B7 antigen or fragment is B7Ig.--
- 90. (new) A method for producing an antibody or fragment thereof directed against a B7 antigen having SEQ ID NO. 8 or a fragment of SEQ ID NO. 8, which antibody reacts with B7 on B7 positive B cells to inhibit B cell interaction with CD28, comprising:
- C21 (a) using a B7 fusion protein having SEQ ID NO. 8 or a fragment of SEQ ID NO. 8 so as to produce antibodies that react with the B7 or a fragment thereof; and

- (b) screening the antibodies so prepared for an antibody that reacts with the B7 antigen or a fragment thereof on B7 positive B cells and inhibits B cell interaction with CD28.--

--91. (new) The method of claim 90, wherein the B7 fusion protein is B7Ig.—

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--92. (new) The method of claim 91, wherein the B7Ig is encoded by DNA as deposited with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) as accession No. 68627.

--93. (new) An antibody produced by the method of claim 87 or 90.--

In the Abstract:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.121(b)(1)(i)-(ii), please delete the abstract, beginning on page 89, lines 4-17 of the application and replace it with the following:

C-21
-- The invention provides a method for generating and identifying antibodies directed against a B7 antigen having SEQ ID NO. 8 or a fragment of SEQ ID NO. 8, which antibodies inhibit B cells from binding CD28, comprising immunizing an animal with the B7 antigen so as to produce the antibodies; and screening the antibodies for antibodies that bind B7 and inhibit CD28 binding to B cells.--

REMARKS

Claims 77-88 were pending in the subject application. By this Amendment, claims 77-86 have been canceled, claim 87 has been amended and new claim 89 has been added. Accordingly, Claims 87-89 are being examined.